

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LOME 00926 291831Z

41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 NEA-09 EB-07 CU-02 SAB-01 IO-10 COME-00

TRSE-00 AGR-05 /097 W

----- 097521

R 291400Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9072

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 0 9 2 6

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TO

SUBJECT: MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO TOGO

SUMMARY

MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH ON APRIL 28 COMPLETED FIVE-DAY VISIT TO TOGO. AS FIRST ARAB CHIEF OF STATE EVER TO VISIT HERE, HE RECEIVED RED CARPET TREATMENT. PUBLIC STATEMENT AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE STRESSED PROGRESS OF TWO NATIONS TOWARD ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL INDEPENDENCE AND AFRO-ARAB BOND, AS WELL AS SIMILARITY OF AIMS AND EXPERIENCES OF TOGO'S AND MAURITANIA'S UNIQUE POLITICAL PARTIES. GENERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND ACCORDS FOR "JOINT COMMISSION," COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, AND FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND GOODS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WERE SIGNED. HIGHLIGHT OULD DADDAH VISIT WAS HIS ATTENDANCE AT TOGOLESE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION APRIL 27.
END SUMMARY.

1. GOT PULLED OUT ALL STOPS TO IMPRESS ITS FIRST VISITING ARAB
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LOME 00926 291831Z

CHIEF OF STATE, MAURITANIA'S PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH. FROM LATTER'S

ARRIVAL HERE APRIL 23 UNTIL HIS DEPARTURE YESTERDAY, THEMES OF AFRO-ARAB UNITY AND ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL INDEPENDENCE WERE DOMINANT. FIRST EVENT WAS WELCOME CEREMONY APRIL 24 AT TOGO'S PARTY HOME "MAISON DU RPT." HUGE AUDITORIUM WAS MORE THAN THREE-QUARTERS OCCUPIED BY "ANIMATEURS" OR PARTY YOUTH. CONTENT OF THEIR SONGS AND DANCES WAS ESSENTIALLY PRAISE OF EYADEMA. BOTH PRESIDENTS SPOKE, OULD DADDAH FOR HALF HOUR WITHOUT NOTES. LATTER SAID SOME THINGS TO SUPPORT HIS CALL FOR CULTURAL INDEPENDENCE WHICH, IN EYES OF WESTERN AMBASSADORS PRESENT, WERE INAPPROPRIATE. BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN PARTICULAR, STILL SMARTING FROM ABSENCE OF GOT MINISTERS FROM QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY RECEPTION TWO DAYS EARLIER, DESCRIBED OULD DADDAH'S REMARKS TO AMBASSADOR AS "DESCENT INTO GUTTER." ACTUALLY, AS WE SEE IT, OULD DADDAH SIMPLY WAS PLAYING TO CROWD HE WAS GIVEN. MOREOVER, GOT PRESIDENT EYADEMA HAD MADE MUCH IN HIS ADDRESS OF SIMILARITY OF "RASSEMBLEMENT DU PEUPLE TOGOLAIS" AND MAURITANIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY.

3. OULD DADDAH DECLARED MAURITANIA WOULD BE REPRESENTED IN LAGOS NEXT MONTH TO DISCUSS BIRTH OF ECOWAS. HE EMPHASIZED THIS WOULD NOT REPRESENT REPUDIATION OF GOM'S COMMITMENTS TO CEAO. HE ALSO SAID GOM CONTEMPLATING IDEA OF REGIONAL GROUPING OF STATES, PART OF WHOSE TERRITORY IS IN SAHARA. HE NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION UTILITY OF ORGANIZATION FORMED BY SAHELIAN COUNTRIES TO STUDY AND COPE WITH DROUGHT.

4. ENTERING INTO SPIRIT OF TOGO'S NATIONAL MYTH OF "SARAKAWA," OULD DADDAH ALLUDED TO FAILURE OF "ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT," I.E., AGAINST EYADEMA, AND SAID "THOSE WHO TRY TO KILL US BEFORE OUR APPOINTED TIME DO NOT SUCCEED." HE TIED THIS CONVENIENTLY TO THIRD-WORLD REVOLUTION AND LIBERATION.

5. MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT DREW APPLAUSE WITH COMMENT THAT CULTURAL WAS WORSE THAN ECONOMIC DOMINATION. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT WHEN EUROPE WAS STRUGGLING WITH DIFFICULTIES OF MIDDLE AGES, AFRICAN EMPIRES WERE AT THEIR APEX AND EUROPE WAS ILLUMINATED NOT ONLY FROM EAST BUT ALSO FROM AFRICA. HE ACKNOWLEDGED, ON OTHER HAND, THAT EUROPEANS HAD BEQUEATHED SOME POSITIVE ASPECTS OF COLONIALIZATION SUCH AS THEIR LANGUAGES, "EVEN WHEN THESE LANGUAGES OFTEN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LOME 00926 291831Z

KILL OURS, KILL OUR CULTURES AND DEPERSONALIZE US."

6. ALL COM'S EXCEPT NEW DEAN, FRENCH AMBASSADOR ROUDIE, WERE "DISINVITED" TO GALA STATE DINNER FOR PRESIDENT AND MRS. OULD DADDAH ON APRIL 24. NO EXPLANATION GIVEN BY FONMIN PROTOCOL WHEN THEY TELEPHONED EARLY THAT MORNING TO SAY DIPLOMATIC CORPS WAS "EXCUSED" FROM ATTENDING. (WE HAD RECEIVED INVITATIONS ONLY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS EARLIER.) INTERESTING NEW FEATURE OF DINNER

WAS EXCHANGE OF TOASTS. HERETOFORE, PARTY "ANIMATION" HAS HELD SPOTLIGHT, WITH NO TOASTS.

7. OULD DADDAH REMAINED FOR TOGOLESE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION APRIL 27, IN WHICH VISITING NORTH KOREAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DJEN DJUN KI ALSO GIVEN PLACE OF HONOR BESIDE EYEDEMA. FESTIVITIES WERE SHORTENED FROM SCHEDULED SIX TO FOUR HOURS. OULD DADDAH'S AIRPORT DEPARTURE CEREMONY APRIL 28 ALSO MORE BRIEF THAN USUAL.

8. JOINT COMMUNIQUE SIGNED YESTERDAY A) HAILED CONCLUSION ACP/EEC CONVENTION AS IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD NEW ECONOMIC ORDER;
B) REAFFIRMED NECESSITY OF COOPERATION WITHIN AFRICAN ORGANIZATIONS, ESPECIALLY ECOWAS, IN WHICH GOM PRESIDENT ASSURED HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY;
C) EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS OF RECENT OAU MINISTERIAL MEETING DAR ES SALAAM AND REAFFIRMED THAT ALL DIALOGUE WITH SOUTHERN AFRICAN MINORITY REGIMES SHOULD HAVE PRIOR APPROVAL OF AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, "AUTHENTIC REPRESENTATIVES OF PEOPLE";
D) CONCLUDED ACCORDS CITED PARA 1 (PURPOSE OF "JOINT COMMISSION" NOT SPECIFIED); AND
E) AGREED EYADEMA WOULD VISIT MAURITANIA AT UNSPECIFIED TIME.

9. OULD DADDAH IN PRESS CONFERENCE AT AIRPORT PRECEDING DEPARTURE STRESSED AGAIN TIES BETWEEN TOGO'S AND MAURITANIA'S POLITICAL PARTIES. ASKED HOW HE ENVISAGED COOPERATION BETWEEN ECOWAS AND CEAO, PRESIDENT SAID TWO ORGANIZATIONS WERE CLOSELY RELATED EVEN IF NOT IDENTICAL. CONSEQUENTLY, MAURITANIA BELIEVED THEY SHOULD SEEK COMMON DENOMINATORS FOR COOPERATION IN FIRST STAGE AND FOR EVENTUAL MERGER. OULD DADDAH NOTED THAT, BECAUSE TWO GROUPINGS SO SIMILAR, THEIR SEPAR-

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LOME 00926 291831Z

ATE EXISTENCE COULD LEAD TO CONFUSION. PRESIDENT ATTRIBUTED SEPARATION SPANISH SAHARA FROM MAURITANIA TO COLONIAL POWERS. HE SAID LOGIC DEMANDS REINTEGRATION OF TWO TERRITORIES, BUT NOTED GOM ACTING JOINTLY WITH MOROCCO FOR DECOLONIZATION OF SPANISH SAHARA CONFORMING TO UN RESOLUTIONS.

10. TEXTS OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND OULD DADDAH'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT AND NOUAKCHOTT.

11. COMMENT: OULD DADDAH WAS OFTEN OF INSCRUTABLE MIEN IN PUBLIC. WE ARE TEMPTED TO SUGGEST THAT HIS AND EYADEMA'S FREQUENT REFERENCES TO RAPPORT BETWEEN TOGOLESE AND MAURITANIAN POLITICAL PARTIES WILL MEAN GOM'S ADOPTION OF COSTLY (IN MANPOWER AND MEANS) POLITICAL "ANIMATION." FOR SAKE OF OUR COLLEAGUES

IN NOUAKCHOTT, AS WELL AS GOM'S ECONOMIC HEALTH,
WE SINCERELY HOPE NOT. ON OTHER HAND, SHORTENING OF TOGOLESE
"ANIMATEURS" PERFORMANCES AT INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION,
STATE DINNER AND AIRPORT DEPARTURE CEREMONY COULD SIGNIFY OULD
DADDAH'S FATIGUE WITH THIS KIND OF POLITICAL MANIFESTATION,
ESPECIALLY SINCE IT OVERPLAYED EYADEMA CULT.
RAWLS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LOME00926
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750150-0512
From: LOME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975048/aaaaagyo.tel
Line Count: 176
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by buchandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO TOGO SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, TO, (OULD DADDAH, MOKHTAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006